

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

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TAGS: TPHY OSCI IN
SUBJECT: DHEW/OHDS/RSA/SFCP-INTERCHANGE OF EXPERTS,
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

REF STATE (A) 095672 (B) NEW DELHI 5668

1. PURSUANT TO RSA'S OFFER OF SPONSORSHIP IN JANUARY 1978 FOR A 3-MEMBER TEAM FROM MINISTRY OF LABOR TO VISIT U.S. REHABILITATION CENTERS, SO FAR ONLY TWO PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THESE ARE (1) MR. K. KUMAR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND (2) MRS. NAMA BHAT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED (NSEOH) BOMBAY. WHEN AVAILABLE, WE WILL FORWARD THEIR BIODATA INFORMATION BY AIRPOUCH.

2. WE FEEL THAT THE INCLUSION OF A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IN THE PROPOSED 3-MEMBER TEAM IS IMPORTANT. ACCORDINGLY, DR. JAMES GARRETT AND MR. GEORGE ENGSTROM VISITING RSA CONSULTANTS ACCOMPANIED BY SCICOUNS, MET MR. RAVINDRA VARMA, LABOR MINISTER ON JULY 24. MR. VARMA HAD INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE SUGGESTION AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING MR. S.P. TANEJA AS THE THIRD MEMBER OF THE TEAM. SCICOUNS IS ACTIVELY FOLLOWING WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION FOR THE NOMINATION OF TANEJA. UNTIL MR. TANEJA'S
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NAME IS COMMUNICATED TO US BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE PROCESSING OF THE US VISIT OF THE PROPOSED TEAM BE HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR THE REASONS UNDERMENTIONED. DELAY IN GETTING A DECISION EXPEDITIOUSLY, WE UNDERSTAND, IS DUE TO THE MINISTER KEEPING BUSY IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

3. KUMAR AND BHAT, ARE VERY DYNAMIC AND HAVE SAY
IN POLICY FORMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE MINISTRY, BUT
TANEJA IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLICY DECISIONS AT THE HIGHEST
LEVEL IN HIS OWN DEPARTMENT, PLANNING COMMISSION,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND OTHER COLLABORATING GOI
AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES. HE WOULD BE AN ASSET AND A GOOD
CONTACT UPON HIS RETURN FROM US TO INTERPRET AND
EFFECTIVELY USE US TECHNOLOGY AT V.R.CS FUNCTIONING UNDER
THE CONTROL OF MINISTRY OF LABOR. RECOMMENDATIONS OF
KUMAR AND BHAT MAY NOT CREATE THAT IMPACT.
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